

10 Dec 47

Lineage

Established as Reserve Attack Squadron SEVEN HUNDRED TWO (VA-702) on 1 December 1949.

Reserve Attack Squadron SEVEN HUNDRED TWO (VA-702) called to active duty on 20 July 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE (VA-145) on 4 February 1953.

Disestablished on 1 October 1993. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-145 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 8 March 1951. There is no record of the color scheme for the insignia. The "Rustlers" insignia denotes the squadron's Texas origins and attack mission.

Following the redesignation of the squadron, a new insignia was approved by CNO on 7 April 1954. Colors for the sword and lion insignia are: a background of black, yellow and blue with a red border; the scroll is outlined in red with a yellow background and black lettering; the sword is silver and blue with a blue hilt, a yellow and black handle outlined in black; the lightning bolts are yellow; the lion is black with white markings and a red tongue and claws.

Nickname: Rustlers, 1951-1954.

Swordsmen, 1954-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

27 Mar 1951: The squadron conducted its first combat sortie, flying close air support missions in Korea.

Apr 1951: The squadron, embarked in Boxer (CV 9), operated in the Formosa Straits.

20 Sep 1951: VA-702 flew its last close air support sortie in Korea and thereafter, concentrated its strikes on enemy facilities and targets of opportunity as part of the interdiction program. This policy, the result of fairly stable front lines, was effective 21 September and applied to all units of the Fast Carrier Task Force. Close air support missions were now flown only by the Marine Corps and Air Force. This policy was modified later in the war and Fast Carrier Task Force squadrons again flew close air support missions.

16 Oct 1952: Commander B. T. Simonds, the squadron's commanding officer, was lost when his plane crashed into the water immediately following its launch from Kearsarge (CVA 33).

Jun-Aug 1958: The squadron was embarked in Ranger (CVA 61) for her transit from Norfolk, via Cape Horn, to her new home port at Alameda.

5-8 Jul 1959: The squadron, embarked in Ranger, flew sorties from the carrier while it operated off Taiwan due to increasing tensions between the Chinese Nationalists and Chinese Communists.

Jun 1964-Jan 1965: The squadron participated in Yankee Team Operations, flying Rescue Combat Air Patrols in South Vietnam and

Laos.

5 Aug 1964: VA-145 participated in Operation Pierce Arrow, air strikes against North Vietnam in retaliation for the attacks on the American destroyers Turner Joy (DD 951) and Maddox (DD 731) in the Gulf of Tonkin on 4 August. The squadron's Skyraiders, along with other aircraft from the air wing, struck torpedo boats and other targets at Hon Gay, North Vietnam. A second sortie of squadron aircraft, along with Skyhawks from VA-144, attacked five enemy naval vessels that were at sea, near the Lach Chao Estuary and Hon Me Island. The two vessels attacked by VA-145 were left dead in the water and smoking. During this attack Lieutenant (jg) Richard C. Sather was shot down. He was the first naval aviator lost in the Vietnam Conflict.

31 Jan 1966: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander H. F. Griffith, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions as a flight leader directing and coordinating simultaneous attacks, under extremely adverse weather conditions, against a heavily defended primary enemy line of communications and for his participation in the successful rescue of a downed naval aviator.

1 Feb 1966: During one of the squadron's combat missions over North Vietnam, Lieutenant (jg) (b) (6) was shot down. He was captured in Laos and imprisoned. On 30 June 1966 he escaped from a prisoner-of-war stockade, was rescued and returned to the squadron on 21 July. For his daring escape he was awarded the Navy Cross.

Jun-Nov 1967: During 120 days on Yankee Station, the squadron assisted in the recovery of 14 downed airmen, both Navy and Air Force.

16 Apr 1969: Enterprise, with VA-145 embarked, departed Yankee Station enroute to Korean waters in response to the downing of a VQ-1 EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans on 15 April. The squadron operated in the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea until 11 May.

Dec 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker II Operations, heavy air strikes against targets primarily around Hanoi and Haiphong.

15 Jan 1973: The squadron led the first massive laser bombing attack against targets in North Vietnam. A coordinated strike was launched involving squadron A-6s, which used their Pave Knife Laser Designation System, and A-7s from VA-113 and VA-25. These strikes succeeded in destroying 14 bridges in North Vietnam.

Jan-Feb 1973: Following the cease-fire with North Vietnam on 27 January, the squadron concentrated its attention on strikes against lines-of-communication targets in Laos until an agreement was reached with that country.

Feb-Mar 1973: The squadron flew limited sorties in support of Operation Endsweep, minesweeping operations in North Vietnamese waters.

Jul 1976: Following the Israeli raid on Entebbe and the threatened military operations against Kenya by Uganda, the Ranger (CV 61), with VA-145 embarked, was ordered to transit from the South China Sea to the western Indian Ocean and operate off the coast of Kenya.

Aug-Nov 1987: The squadron provided support for Operation

Earnest Will, the escorting of reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers through the Persian Gulf.

Oct 1987: VA-145 and other assets from CVW-2 provided support for Operation Nimble Archer, retaliatory strikes by surface forces against an Iranian oil platform used as a base by Iranian small boats that were attacking oil tankers.

Aug 1989: During a routine mission, a squadron aircraft sighted a foundering Vietnamese refugee boat leading to the rescue of 39 refugees by HS-14 and Ranger.

15 Jan 1991: Ranger (CV-61), with VA-145 embarked, transited to station in the Persian Gulf.

16 Jan-28 Feb 1991: The squadron participated in Desert Storm, flying combat missions against targets in Iraq and Kuwait. VA-145 flew 621 combat sorties, striking land based and sea based targets. Squadron strikes resulted in the destruction of 33 tanks, 1 bridge, 48 artillery pieces, 41 Iraqi naval vessels, 20 ammunition storage bunkers, 3 chemical weapon storage facilities, and 7 command and control sites. All of this was accomplished by the squadron without the loss of a single person or damage to its aircraft.

17 Sep-3 Dec 1992: Squadron aircraft flew missions in support of Operation Southern Watch. This operation was in support of UN Resolution 688, which demanded that Iraqi government stop the repression of its Shi'ite population in southern Iraq and banned Iraqi planes from flying south of the 32nd parallel.

7-18 Dec 1992: Squadron aircraft flew missions in support of Operation Restore Hope, a UN authorized effort to relieve mass starvation amid factional fighting in Somalia.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Dallas	01 Dec 1949
NAS San Diego	28 Jul 1950
NAS Miramar	Mar 1953
NAS Moffett Field	May 1962
NAS Alameda	Sep 1963
NAS Whidbey Island	28 Jan 1968

Commanding Officers	Date Assumed Command
LCDR S. C. Seagraves	01 Dec 1949
CDR Bruce T. Simonds	06 Dec 1951
LCDR Harry C. McClaugherty (acting)	16 Oct 1952
LCDR Harry C. McClaugherty	28 Oct 1952
CDR John A. Duncan	May 1953
LCDR Gale L. Bergey	Jul 1954
CDR W. P. Blackwell	Feb 1956
CDR Charles S. Brooks	Jul 1957
CDR W. H. Alexander, II	15 Sep 1958
CDR Harvey S. Herrick	Aug 1959
CDR Warren H. Ireland	11 May 1960
CDR Harvey S. Herrick	17 Aug 1960

CDR E. B. Berger	28 Dec 1960
LCDR B. L. Blackwelder (acting)	12 Sep 1961
CDR R. A. Norin	12 Oct 1961
CDR B. L. Blackwelder	14 Aug 1962
CDR H. A. Hoy	31 Jul 1963
CDR Melvin D. Blixt	03 Aug 1964
CDR H. F. Griffith	06 Aug 1965
CDR D. E. Sparks	03 Aug 1966
CDR W. J. Schultz	20 Jul 1967
CDR N. R. Gooding, Jr.	02 Feb 1968
CDR J. S. Holland	27 Apr 1969
CDR W. A. Rubey	29 Apr 1970
CDR G. E. Matt	23 Apr 1971
CDR R. S. Owens	29 Feb 1972
CDR F. J. Metz	01 Jun 1973
CDR R. W. McFerren	15 Jul 1974
CDR R. A. Powell	07 Nov 1975
CDR V. J. Huth	18 Feb 1977
CDR J. Juan	20 Jun 1978
CDR D. D. Williams	28 Sep 1979
CDR F. D. Litvin	08 Dec 1980
CDR M. J. Reilly	12 Mar 1982
CDR C. G. Overton	29 Jul 1983
CDR A. N. Langston III	07 Dec 1984
CDR K. G. Bixler	21 Feb 1986
CDR S. A. Hazelrigg	02 Nov 1987
CDR Russell T. Palsgrove	30 Nov 1988
CDR H. Denby Starling II	1990
CDR Richard J. Cassara	29 Jul 1991
CDR David A. Rogers	27 Nov 1992

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
TBM	1949
AD-2	Aug 1950
AD-4Q	Sep 1950
AD-1	Dec 1951
AD-4L	Apr 1952
AD-3Q	Apr 1953
AD-4B	Apr 1953
AD-4NA	Aug 1954
AD-5	Oct 1954
AD-6/A-1H*	Feb 1956
A-6A	04 Jun 1968
A-6B	06 Aug 1968
A-6C	11 May 1970
KA-6D	1972
A-6E	22 Sep 1976
A-6E TRAMú	30 Nov 1981

* The AD-6 designation was changed to A-1H in 1962.

ú The A-6E TRAM version was capable of carrying and firing the Harpoon missile (an antiship missile).

Major Overseas Deployments

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
02 Mar 1951	24 Oct 1951	CVG-101	CV 21	AD-2/4Q	Korea/ WestPac
11 Aug 1952	17 Mar 1953	CVG-101*	CVA 33	AD-4/4L	Korea/ WestPac
03 Jun 1955	03 Feb 1956	CVG-14	CVA 21	AD-4/4B	WestPac
21 Jan 1957	25 Jul 1957	CVG-14	CVA 12	AD-6	WestPac
03 Jan 1959	27 Jul 1959	CVG-14	CVA 61	AD-6	WestPac
14 May 1960	15 Dec 1960	CVG-14	CVA 34	AD-6	WestPac
09 Nov 1961	12 May 1962	CVG-14	CVA 16	AD-6	WestPac
21 Feb 1963	10 Sep 1963	CVG-14	CVA 64	A-1H	WestPac
05 May 1964	01 Feb 1965	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-1H/J	WestPac/ Vietnam
10 Dec 1965	25 Aug 1966	CVW-14	CVA 61	A-1H/J	WestPac/ Vietnam
11 May 1967	30 Dec 1967	CVW-10	CVS 11	A-1H	Med/IO/ WestPac/ Vietnam
06 Jan 1969	02 Jul 1969	CVW-9	CVAN 65*	A-6A/B	WestPac/ Vietnam
27 Oct 1970	17 Jun 1971	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-6A/C	WestPac/ Vietnam
16 Nov 1972	23 Jun 1973	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-6A/B & KA-6D	WestPac/ Vietnam
07 May 1974	18 Oct 1974	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-6A & KA-6D	WestPac
30 Jan 1976	07 Sep 1976	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6A & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
21 Feb 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
10 Sep 1980	05 May 1981	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
07 Apr 1982	19 Oct 1982	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
13 Jan 1984	01 Aug 1984	CVW-2	CV 63	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
18 Aug 1986	20 Oct 1986	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac/ WestPac
02 Mar 1987	29 Apr 1987	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac
14 Jul 1987	29 Dec 1987	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E	WestPac/IO
24 Feb 1989	24 Aug 1989	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E	WestPac/IO
08 Dec 1990	08 Jun 1991	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf
01 Aug 1992	31 Jan 1993	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* The squadron was temporarily shore based at NAS Barbers Point from January to March 1969 following a fire on Enterprise (CVAN 65) on 14 January 1969. The carrier was repaired at Pearl Harbor and was enroute to WestPac on 11 March with VA-145 embarked.

Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
CVG-101/CVG-14/CVW-14*	A/NKú	01 Aug 1950
COMFAIRALAMEDA		Oct 1966
CVW-10	AK	1967
COMFAIRWHIDBEY/VA-128ñ		Jan 1968
CVW-9	NG	Sep 1968
COMFAIRWHIDBEY		02 Jul 1969
CVW-2	NE	01 Jun 1970

* CVG-101 was redesignated CVG-14 on 4 February 1953. CVG-14 was redesignated CVW-14 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

ú The tail code was changed from A to NK in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

ñ The squadron was assigned to VA-128 during its transition from the A-1 to the A-6.

Unit Awards Received

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award
KSM	26 Mar 1951 09 Apr 1951 16 Apr 1951 08 Oct 1951 08 Sep 1952 29 Oct 1952 31 Oct 1952 05 Jan 1953 19 Jan 1953 28 Feb 1953
NAVE	01 Jan 1973 30 Jun 1974
AFEM	09 Oct 1960 12 Oct 1960 06 Jun 1964 13 Jul 1964 04 Aug 1964 21 Sep 1964 29 Oct 1964 23 Nov 1964 20 Apr 1969 11 May 1969
HSM	20 Mar 1981
MUC	18 Nov 1970 10 Jun 1971
NEM	30 Oct 1980 12 Mar 1981
NUC	02 Aug 1964 05 Aug 1964 10 Jan 1966 06 Aug 1966 12 Jun 1967 08 Dec 1967

	18 Jul 1988	24 Aug 1989
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
SASM	13 Jan 1991	19 Apr 1991
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
VNSM	15 Jan 1966	12 Feb 1966
	23 Feb 1966	22 Mar 1966
	12 Apr 1966	09 May 1966
	30 May 1966	30 Jun 1966
	13 Jul 1966	06 Aug 1966
	21 Jun 1967	13 Jul 1967
	29 Jul 1967	27 Aug 1967
	14 Sep 1967	12 Oct 1967
	31 Oct 1967	24 Nov 1967
	30 Mar 1969	17 Apr 1969
	22 May 1969	23 May 1969
	29 May 1969	16 Jun 1969
	18 Nov 1970	19 Dec 1970
	27 Dec 1970	13 Jan 1971
	02 Feb 1971	17 Mar 1971
	31 Mar 1971	18 Apr 1971
	25 Apr 1971	18 May 1971
	09 Dec 1972	03 Jan 1973
	14 Jan 1973	30 Jan 1973
	01 Feb 1973	06 Feb 1973
RVNGC	24 Jan 1966	
	26 Jan 1966	27 Jan 1966
	30 Jan 1966	
	04 Feb 1966	
	06 Feb 1966	
	24 Feb 1966	
	26 Feb 1966	28 Feb 1966
	04 Mar 1966	
	06 Mar 1966	12 Mar 1966
	20 Mar 1966	
	27 Apr 1966	28 Apr 1966
	21 Jun 1967	13 Jul 1967
	29 Jul 1967	27 Aug 1967
	14 Sep 1967	12 Oct 1967
	31 Oct 1967	24 Nov 1967
	31 Mar 1969	03 Apr 1969
	05 Apr 1969	
	31 May 1969	16 Jun 1969

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE

HISTORY

Attack Squadron 145 started its history as Attack Squadron 702, an NAS Dallas group of "Weekend Warriors" nicknamed the "Swordsmen." On July 20, 1950 the squadron received orders to active duty and proceeded to the Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, where they trained in Douglas AD-1 Skyraiders. On March 2, 1951 the "Swordsmen" departed for the Korean zone aboard the USS BOXER (CV-21), making them part of the first reserve air group to see combat in the Korean conflict.

After six individual cruises of thirty days each in the combat area, 702 returned home, having dropped some seventy tons of high explosive upon the enemy.

In August of 1952 the squadron, with an almost entirely new roster of pilots, again departed for Korea, this time aboard the USS KEARSAGE (CVA-33). Under the leadership of the late CDR B. T. Simonds, the pilots and men set an exemplary record against the enemy during a six month tour of continuous behind-the-lines heckling and destruction. It was during this second combat tour that the squadron was redesignated ATTACK SQUADRON 145, the attack unit within the newly formed Carrier Air Group 14. Incidentally, Chiefs Osio, Byrd and 3rd Class Escobar were aboard for these cruises.

The "Swordsmen" returned in March of 1953 to begin a new training cycle under CDR John A. Duncan. After nine months at Miramar, CVG-14 was sent to the east coast for temporary duty in the Mediterranean Sea.

The squadron boarded the USS Randolph (CVA-15) in January of 1954 and on February 13 they passed through the Straits of Gibraltar. Ports

Enclosure (5)

of call in Greece, Italy, Sicily, Africa, and the French Riviera highlighted the cruise. In July the ship returned to Norfolk, and mid-August found VA-145 home at Miramar.

In September of 1954 CDR G.L. Bergey relieved CDR Duncan and the "SWORDSMEN" commenced their third new training cycle. They deployed to WESTPAC aboard the USS BOXER again in June of 1955. It was during this eight month period that they established the old squadron flight time record- 1094.7 hours in the month of September.

CDR W.P. Blackwell assumed command of VA-145 on February 16, 1956 upon the squadron's return to Miramar, and AD-6's replaced the AD-4's. Eleven months of training readied the squadron for deployment again in January of 1957, this time aboard the USS HORNET (CVA-12). Six months later VA-145 returned from the Far East.

On July 5, 1957 CDR C.S. Brookes, took the helm. Since that time the "SWORDSMEN" have added more records to their already glorious history, including a new Air Group 14 flight time record - 1142.1 hours in January of 1958 and a new all-time AIRPAC loft bombing record, with 83% of the pilots receiving Navy "E"'s, for excellence. The Squadron flew to Norfolk, Virginia, in May of 1958 with CVG-14 and operated from the super-carrier USS RANGER during her three-month voyage around Cape Horn to the Pacific Fleet.

Upon returning to Miramar, VA-145 was assigned a new C.O., Commander W. H. Alexander, in September 1958. Autumn deployments to NAAS El Centro brought the squadron to its peak in ordnance work, and by the year's end the SWORDSMEN had accumulated sixty-three Navy "E"s.